

UNESCO Spells Help for Those in Need of Education

PARIS—(NEA)—There is nothing like a visit to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, to make one's hair stand on end.

For UNESCO, which has its world headquarters in Paris, is the home of scare statistics and Cassandra-like predictions. One emerges from the magnificent UNESCO building near the Eiffel Tower with glazed eyes, a pulse rate twice the normal speed and the conviction that all of mankind is doomed.

These at any rate were my reactions after a recent visit during which I learned that (1) the world is rapidly losing the battle against illiteracy and (2) it is losing its art treasures, too, thanks to smuggling, theft and neglect.

To take the art treasures first, I learned that Mexico, for example, is fast being drained of them. Tourists have only to scratch the Mexican soil in order to find priceless pre-Columbian artifacts. The Mexican government is powerless to prevent visitors from walking away with them. The same is true of Italy, where 80 per cent of the excavations

for Roman antiquities are illegal.

But it was the UNESCO statistics on illiteracy, based on a survey of 92 member states, that was most startling. Far from decreasing, the number of illiterates has increased by 70 million in the last 10 years. This means that there are now 810 million adult illiterates out of a total world population of 2.3 billion adults, according to the

most pessimistic estimates, or, one in every three adults cannot read or write.

The paradox is that the percentage of illiterates has been reduced, thanks to heroic efforts on the part of some of the more backward nations. These, however, are no match for the world population explosion, which has far outstripped the literacy drives. The situation is particularly

bad in Africa and Asia, where the populations are expected to increase by 65 per cent and 60 per cent, respectively, in the period between 1960 and 1980.

In the unremitting war against illiteracy, a surprising amount is being done by the backward nations themselves without international aid. In some of these nations, the percentage of the budget earmarked for education is five

times that in the more advanced western countries.

President Nasser has put the burden on Egyptian employers, telling them to teach their workers to read and write by 1975, or else. Libya and Syria likewise are trying to outlaw illiteracy by decree.

In Latin America, Brazil has put a tax on betting to finance its literacy program, while Guatemala and Venezuela have

ambitious schemes. Colombia celebrated the 150th anniversary of its independence this year by launching a literacy program in 44 towns and villages in the name of Simon Bolivar.

Since the World Literacy Congress, held in Teheran in 1965, a whole new approach to illiteracy is being tried. "We no longer look upon literacy as a problem of education in

isolation," says John Cairns, the Canadian who is in charge of UNESCO's functional literacy program. An underdeveloped country cannot industrialize without a literate working force.

"Similarly the workers themselves are beginning to see that books mean more bread."

"Classes are held in the field, where the peasant may learn arithmetic in the course of

solving the problem of how to preserve water in an irrigation ditch."

To date, 52 countries have agreed to participate in this new approach to illiteracy. Twelve of these countries have already started large-scale projects costing \$41 million. Cotton workers in Tanzania, miners in Morocco, and tobacco growers in Nigeria are becoming literate for the first time.

Actress Crusades For CO's

SEATTLE (AP) — Actress Jane Fonda, repulsed along with a band of Indians in a raid on an Army fort, says she now plans a cross-country tour in support of servicemen who are antiwar.

Referring bitterly to her weekend arrest at Ft. Lewis, Miss Fonda told a news conference Monday:

"Bob Hope was greeted differently by the local branch of the military-industrial complex. But then I had not come to glamorize war or to urge young men on to fight."

Miss Fonda, 32, was detained for three hours at Ft. Lewis Sunday after joining several hundred Indians earlier in an attempt to take over land in Seattle's Ft. Lawton to set up an Indian educational and cultural center. About 85 persons were arrested at the two bases.

"I hear from the GIs that we need a GI bill of rights, and from the Indians that we need an Indian bill of rights," said Miss Fonda.

"We've got a bill of rights. Why isn't it being put through?"

Her remarks were punctuated by war whoops from demonstrating Indians.

"Anyone who comes onto a base to speak out of concern for the GIs—their opposition to the war and their fight for democratic rights—is banned," she said.

"In this country, the only way a minority can get anything done is to make a little noise."

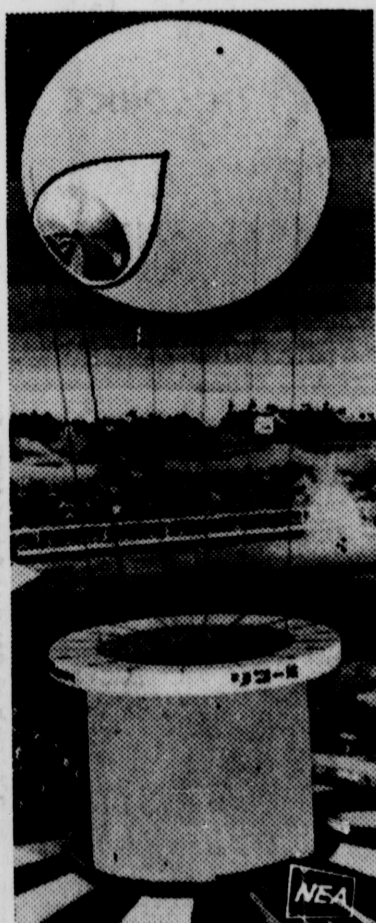
Miss Fonda said she planned to visit Army, Navy and Marine bases across the country as well as coffee house hangouts for the antiwar servicemen.

Asked whether she would be willing to go to jail to protest what she considered ill treatment of servicemen or Indians, Miss Fonda said, "I'm very naive about my legal rights. I could go to jail and if I didn't have a child and a family, I might."

She is married to movie producer Roger Vadim and they have a young daughter.

Miss Fonda said she intends to return to Ft. Lewis despite an order to stay away. Disregarding the order could cost her a \$500 fine or six months in jail.

She said she also is considering suing the base commander for false arrest.



"EYE IN THE SKY" floats over a pavilion at Expo '70 in Osaka, Japan. In this artist's sketch, the Good-year balloon is seen tethered to a cylindrical building housing exhibits of a Japanese camera firm.



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